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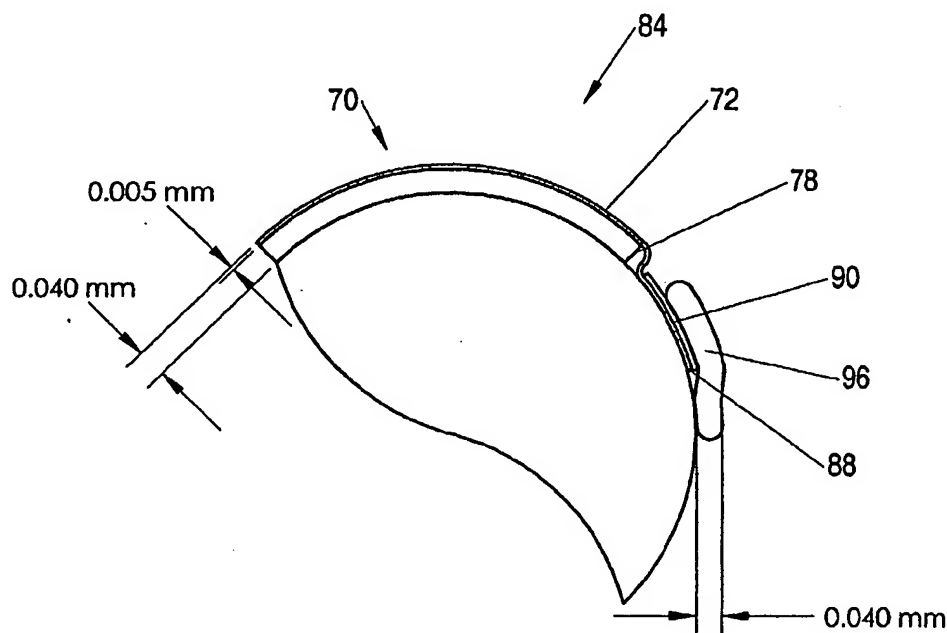
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(54) Title: ELECTRIC STORAGE BATTERY CONSTRUCTION AND METHOD OF MANUFACTURE



(57) Abstract: An electric storage battery and method of manufacture thereof. Active material (78) is removed from both sides of the outer end (88) of the negative electrode (70) in a jellyroll (84) to allow room for adhesive tape (96) to secure the jellyroll.



For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

ELECTRIC STORAGE BATTERY CONSTRUCTION AND METHOD OF MANUFACTURE

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TECHNICAL FIELD

This invention relates generally to electric storage batteries and more particularly to a battery construction, and method of manufacture thereof, suitable for use in implantable medical devices.

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BACKGROUND

Rechargeable electric storage batteries are commercially available in a wide range of sizes for use in a variety of applications. As battery technology continues to improve, batteries find new applications which impose increasingly stringent specifications relating to physical size and performance. Thus, new technologies have yielded smaller and lighter weight batteries having longer storage lives and higher energy output capabilities enabling them to be used in an increasing range of applications, including medical applications, where, for example, the battery can be used in a medical device which is implanted in a patient's body. Such medical devices can be used to monitor and/or treat various medical conditions.

Batteries for implantable medical devices are subject to very demanding requirements, including long useful life, high power output, low self-discharge rates, compact size, high reliability over a long time period, compatibility with the patient's internal body chemistry, etc. Although various battery chemistries have been tried, lithium ion technology is generally accepted as the preferred chemistry for medical implant applications.

Such electric storage batteries are generally comprised of a tubular metal case enveloping an interior cavity which contains an electrode assembly surrounded by a suitable electrolyte. The electrode assembly generally comprises a plurality of positive electrode, negative electrode, and separator layers which are typically stacked and/or spirally wound to form a jellyroll. The positive electrode is generally formed of a metal substrate having positive active material coated on both faces of the substrate. Similarly, the negative electrode is formed of a metal substrate having negative active material coated on both faces of the substrate. In forming an electrode assembly, separator layers are interleaved between the positive and negative electrode layers to provide electrical isolation.

SUMMARY

The present invention is directed to an electric storage battery incorporating one or more aspects described herein for enhancing battery reliability while minimizing battery size. In addition, the invention is directed to a method for efficiently manufacturing the battery at a relatively low cost.

In accordance with a first significant aspect of the invention, a feedthrough pin is provided which is directly physically and electrically connected to the inner end of an electrode substrate (e.g., positive), as by welding. The pin is used during the manufacturing process as an arbor to facilitate winding the layers to form an electrode assembly jellyroll. Additionally, in the fully manufactured battery, the pin extends through a battery case endcap and functions as one of the battery terminals. The battery case itself generally functions as the other battery terminal.

More particularly, in accordance with an exemplary preferred embodiment, the inner end of the positive electrode substrate is spot welded to the feedthrough pin to form an electrical connection. The substrate, e.g., aluminum, can be very thin, e.g., 0.02 mm, making it difficult to form a strong mechanical connection to the pin, which is preferably constructed of a low electrical resistance, highly corrosion resistant material, e.g., platinum iridium, and can have a diameter on the order of 0.40 mm. In order to mechanically reinforce the pin and secure the pin/substrate connection, a slotted C-shaped mandrel is provided. The mandrel is formed of electrically conductive material, e.g., titanium-6Al-4V, and is fitted around the pin, overlaying the pin/substrate connection. The mandrel is then preferably welded to both the pin and substrate. The mandrel slot defines a keyway for accommodating a drive key which can be driven to rotate the mandrel and pin to wind the electrode assembly layers to form the spiral jellyroll.

In accordance with a further significant aspect of the invention, the outer layer of the jellyroll is particularly configured to minimize the size, i.e., outer radius dimension, of the jellyroll. More particularly, in the exemplary preferred embodiment, the active material is removed from both faces of the negative electrode substrate adjacent its outer end. The thickness of each active material coat can be about 0.04 mm and the thickness of the negative substrate can be about 0.005 mm. By baring the outer end of the negative electrode substrate, it can be adhered directly, e.g., by an appropriate adhesive tape, to the next inner layer to close the jellyroll to while minimizing the roll outer radius dimension.

A battery case in accordance with the invention is comprised of a tubular case body having open first and second ends. The feedthrough pin preferably carries a first endcap

physically secured to, but electrically insulated from, the pin. This first endcap is preferably secured to the case body, as by laser welding, to close the open first end and form a leak free seal. With the jellyroll mounted in the case and the first endcap sealed, the interior cavity can thereafter be filled with electrolyte from the open second end.

5 In accordance with a still further aspect of the invention, the jellyroll assembly is formed with a flexible electrically conductive tab extending from the negative electrode substrate for electrical connection to the battery case. In accordance with a preferred embodiment, the tab is welded to a second endcap which is in turn welded to the case. The tab is sufficiently flexible to enable the second endcap to close the case body second end after the interior cavity is filled with
10 electrolyte via the open second end. In accordance with an exemplary preferred embodiment, the tab is welded to the inner face of the second endcap such that when the jellyroll is placed in the body, the tab locates the second endcap proximate to the body without obstructing the open second end. After electrolyte filling, the case body is sealed by bending the tab to position the second endcap across the body second end and then laser welding the endcap to the case body.

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BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE FIGURES

Figure 1 is a side view of a feedthrough pin subassembly in accordance with the invention;

Figure 2 is a longitudinal sectional view through the subassembly of Figure 1;

20 Figure 3 is a plan view of a positive electrode strip utilized in the exemplary preferred electrode assembly in accordance with the invention;

Figure 4 is a side view of the positive electrode strip of Figure 3;

Figure 5 is an enlarged sectional view of the area A of Figure 4 showing the inner end of the positive electrode strip of Figures 3 and 4;

25 Figure 6 is an isometric view showing the bared inner end of the positive electrode substrate spot welded to the feedthrough pin and configured to receive a C-shaped mandrel thereon;

Figure 7 is an end view showing the C-shaped mandrel being crimped to the pin and electrode;

30 Figure 8 is an end view showing the C-shaped mandrel mounted on the pin and capturing the positive electrode substrate therebetween;

Figure 9 is an isometric view depicting a drive key accommodated in the slot of the C-shaped mandrel;

Figure 10 is a plan view showing the drive key coupled to a drive motor for rotating the C-shaped mandrel;

Figure 11 is a schematic end view depicting how rotation of the C-shaped mandrel and pin can wind positive electrode, negative electrode, and separator strips to form a spiral jellyroll
5 electrode assembly;

Figure 12 is a plan view of a negative electrode strip utilized in the exemplary preferred electrode assembly in accordance with the invention;

Figure 13 is a side view of the negative electrode strip of Figure 12;

Figure 14 is an enlarged sectional view of the area A of Figure 13 showing the inner end
10 of the negative electrode strip of Figures 12 and 13;

Figure 15 is an enlarged sectional view of the area B of Figure 13 showing the outer end of the negative electrode strip of Figures 11 and 12;

Figure 16 is an isometric view showing that the layers of a spirally wound electrode assembly, i.e., jellyroll;

Figure 17 is a plan view of the negative electrode strip showing the attachment of a
15 flexible electrically conductive tab to the bared outer end of the negative electrode substrate;

Figure 18 is an enlarged sectional view showing how the outer turn of the negative electrode strip is taped to the next inner layer to close the jellyroll to minimize its outer radius dimension;

Figure 19 is an isometric view depicting the jellyroll electrode assembly being inserted
20 into a cylindrical battery case body;

Figure 20 is an isometric view showing a battery case body with the negative electrode tab extending from the open case body;

Figure 21 is an isometric view showing how the negative electrode tab is mechanically
25 and electrically connected to an endcap for sealing the case body second end;

Figure 22 is a side view showing how the negative electrode tab holds the second endcap proximate to the case body second end without obstructing the open second end;

Figure 23 is a front view showing the weld position and the relationship between the various components; and

Figure 24 is an enlarged sectional view of the second end of the battery case showing the
30 endcap in sealed position.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Attention is initially directed to Figures 1 and 2 which illustrate a preferred feedthrough pin subassembly 10 utilized in accordance with the present invention. The subassembly 10 is comprised of an elongate pin 12, preferably formed of a solid electrically conductive material, having low electrical resistance and high corrosion resistance such as platinum iridium, preferably 90Pt/10Ir. The pin 12 extends through, and is hermetically sealed to a header 14. The header 14 is comprised of dielectric disks, e.g., ceramic, 16 and 18 which sandwich a glass hollow cylinder 20 therebetween. The glass hollow cylinder is hermetically sealed to the pin 12. The outer surface of the glass hollow cylinder 20 is sealed to the inner surface of an electrically conductive hollow member 22, e.g., titanium-6Al-4V. As will be seen hereinafter, the conductive hollow material 22 functions as a battery case endcap in the final product to be described hereinafter.

Attention is now directed to Figures 3, 4, and 5 which illustrate a preferred positive electrode strip 30 which is utilized in the fabrication of a preferred spirally wound jellyroll electrode assembly in accordance with the present invention. The positive electrode strip 30 is comprised of a metal substrate 32 formed, for example, of aluminum. Positive electrode active material 34, 36 is deposited, respectively on the upper and lower faces 38 and 40 of the substrate 32. Note in Figures 3, 4, and 5 that the right end of the substrate 32 is bare, i.e. devoid of positive active material on both the upper and lower faces 38, 40.

It is to be pointed out that exemplary dimensions are depicted in Figures 1-5 and other figures herein. These exemplary dimensions are provided primarily to convey an order of magnitude to the reader to facilitate an understanding of the text and drawings. Although the indicated dimensions accurately reflect one exemplary embodiment of the invention, it should be appreciated that the invention can be practiced utilizing components having significantly different dimensions.

Figure 6 depicts an early process step for manufacturing a battery in accordance with the invention utilizing the pin subassembly 10 (Figures 1, 2) and the positive electrode strip 30 (Figures 3-5). A topside electrode insulator (not shown), which may comprise a thin disk of DuPont Kapton® polyimide film, is slipped onto the pin 12 adjacent the header 14. In accordance with the present invention, the bare end of the electrode strip substrate 32 is electrically connected to the pin 12 preferably by resistance spot welding, shown at 44. Alternatively, substrate 32 may be ultrasonically welded to the pin 12. The thinness, e.g. point 0.02 mm of the substrate 32, makes it very difficult to form a strong mechanical connection

between the substrate and the pin 12. Accordingly, in accordance with a significant aspect of the present invention, an elongate C-shaped mandrel 48 is provided to mechanically reinforce the pin 12 and secure the substrate 32 thereto.

The mandrel 48 preferably comprises an elongate titanium or titanium alloy such as Ti-
5 6Al-4V tube 50 having a longitudinal slot 52 extending along the length thereof. The arrow 54 in Figure 6 depicts how the mandrel 48 is slid over the pin 12 and substrate 32, preferably overlaying the line of spot welds 44. The mandrel 48, pin 12, and substrate 32 are then preferably welded together, such as by resistance spot welding or by ultrasonic welding. Alternatively, the mandrel 48 may be crimped onto the pin 12 at least partially closing the "C" to
10 create a strong mechanical connection. In the case of forming only a mechanical connection and not necessarily a gas-tight electrical connection between the mandrel 48 and the pin and substrate, the mandrel material is preferably made of a material that will not lead to electrolysis. When used with electrolytes that tend to contain hydrofluoric acid, the mandrel is preferably made of 304, 314, or 316 stainless steels or aluminum or an alloy thereof chosen for its
15 compatibility with the other materials. Figure 7 is an end view showing the step of crimping the mandrel 48 to the pin 12 and substrate 32. Supporting die 126 is used to support the mandrel 48 and crimping dies 124 and 125 are used to deform the edges of the mandrel 48 to bring them closer together and mechanically connect the mandrel 48 to the pin 12 and substrate 32. By crimping in the direction of arrows 127 and 128, a strong connection is formed without
20 damaging the thin electrode or disturbing the electrical connection between the pin and the electrode.

Figure 8 is an end view showing the slotted mandrel 48 on the pin 12 with the substrate 32 extending tangentially to the pin 12 and terminating adjacent the interior surface of the mandrel tube 50. The tube 50 is preferably sufficiently long so as to extend beyond the free end
25 of the pin 12. As depicted in Figure 9, this enables a drive key 56 to extend into the mandrel slot 52.

Figure 10 schematically depicts a drive motor 60 for driving the drive key 56 extending into mandrel slot 52. With the pin subassembly header 14 supported for rotation (not shown), energization of the motor 60 will orbit the key drive 56 to rotate the mandrel 48 and subassembly
30 10 around their common longitudinal axes. The rotation of the mandrel 48 and subassembly 10 is employed to form a jellyroll electrode assembly in accordance with the present invention.

More particularly, Figure 11 depicts how a jellyroll electrode assembly is formed in accordance with the present invention. The bare end of the substrate 32 of the positive electrode

strip 30 is electrically connected to the pin 12 as previously described. The conductive mandrel 48 contains the pin 12 and bare substrate end, being welded to both as previously described. A strip of insulating separator material 64 extending from opposite directions is introduced between the mandrel 48 and positive electrode substrate 32, as shown. A negative electrode strip 70 is then introduced between the portions of the separator material extending outwardly from mandrel 48.

The preferred exemplary negative electrode strip 70 is depicted in Figures 12-15. The negative electrode strip 70 is comprised of a substrate 72, e.g. titanium, having negative active material formed on respective faces of the substrate. More particularly, note in Figure 14 that negative active material 74 is deposited on the substrate upper surface 76 and negative active material 78 is deposited on the substrate lower surface 80. Figure 14 depicts the preferred configuration of the inner end 82 of the negative electrode strip 70 shown at the left of Figures 12 and 13. Figure 15 depicts the configuration of the outer end 83 of the negative electrode strip 70 shown at the right side of Figures 12 and 13.

Note in Figure 14 that one face of the substrate inner end 82 is bared. This configuration can also be noted in Figure 11 which shows how the negative substrate inner end 82 is inserted between turns of the separator strip 64. After the strip 70 has been inserted as depicted in Figure 11, the aforementioned drive motor 60 is energized to rotate pin 12 and mandrel 48, via drive key 56, in a counterclockwise direction, as viewed in Figure 11. Rotation of pin 12 and mandrel 48 functions to wind positive electrode strip 30, separator strip 64, and negative electrode strip 70, into the spiral jellyroll assembly 84, depicted in Figure 16. The assembly 84 is comprised of multiple layers of strip material so that a cross section through the assembly 84 would reveal a sequence of layers in the form pos/sep/neg/sep/pos/sep/neg/..., etc.

Figure 15 depicts a preferred configuration of the outer end 83 of the negative electrode strip 70. Note that the outer end 88 of the substrate 72 is bare on both its top and bottom faces. These bared portions may be provided by masking the substrate prior to coating, by scraping active material after coating, or by other means well known in the art. Additionally, as shown in Figure 17, a flexible metal tab 90 is welded crosswise to the substrate 72 so as to extend beyond edge 92. More particularly, note that portion 94 of tab 90 is cantilevered beyond edge 92 of negative electrode strip 70. This tab portion, as will be described hereinafter, is utilized to mechanically and electrically connect to an endcap for closing a battery case.

Attention is now called to Figure 18, which illustrates a preferred technique for closing the jellyroll assembly 84. That is, the bare end 88 of the negative electrode substrate 72

extending beyond the negative active material coat 78 is draped over the next inner layer of the jellyroll assembly 84. The end 88 can then be secured to the next inner layer, e.g., by appropriate adhesive tape 96. One such suitable adhesive tape is DuPont Kapton® polyimide tape. It is important to note that the outer end configuration 88 of the negative electrode strip 70 enables
5 the outer radius dimension of the jellyroll assembly 84 to be minimized as shown in Figure 18. More particularly, by baring the substrate 72 beyond the active material 78, the tape 96 is able to secure the substrate end without adding any radial dimension to the jellyroll assembly. In other words, if the outer end of the substrate were not sufficiently bared, then the tape 96 would need to extend over the active material and thus add to the outer radius dimension of the jellyroll 84.
10 Furthermore, the bare substrate 72 is more flexible than the substrate coated with active material 78 and conforms more readily to the jellyroll assembly 84, making it easier to adhere it to the surface of the jellyroll. These space savings, although seemingly small, can be clinically important in certain medical applications. It should be noted that the electrode need only be bared at an end portion long enough to accommodate the tape 96, as shown in Figure 18.
15 Because the uncoated substrate does not function as an electrode, it would waste space in the battery to bare any more than necessary to accommodate the tape. In a preferred embodiment, the length of uncoated substrate is between 1 and 8 mm, and more preferably about 2 mm. In some embodiments, as illustrated, the outer layer is an electrode layer, and the tape is applied to the outer electrode layer. However, in other embodiments, to facilitate insertion of the electrode
20 assembly into the battery case, the outer layer is a separator layer to keep the outer electrode layer from sticking to the inside of the battery case during insertion. This configuration is particularly useful in a battery when the outer electrode layer is lithium metal, which tends to grab onto the case material during insertion.

Figure 19 depicts the completed jellyroll assembly 84 and shows the cantilevered tab
25 portion 94 prior to insertion into a battery case body 100. The case body 100 is depicted as comprising a cylindrical metal tube 101 having an open first end 104 and open second end 106. In a preferred embodiment in which small volume and weight are desirable, the case body 100 comprises Ti-6Al-4V alloy or stainless steel, and is less than 0.25 mm (0.010 inches) thick, and more preferably less than 0.125 mm (0.005 inches) thick, and most preferably less than
30 0.076 mm (0.003 inches) thick. Arrow 107 represents how the jellyroll assembly 84 is inserted into the cylindrical tube 101. Figure 20 depicts the jellyroll assembly 84 within the tube 101 with the cantilevered negative electrode tab 94 extending from the case open second end 106. The case open first end 104 is closed by the aforementioned header 14 of the pin subassembly 10

shown in Figures 1 and 2. More particularly, note that the metal hollow member 22 is configured to define a reduced diameter portion 108 and shoulder 110. The reduced diameter portion 108 is dimensioned to fit into the open end 104 of the cylindrical tube 101 essentially contiguous with the tube's inner wall surface. The shoulder 110 of the hollow member 22 engages the end of the case tube 101. This enables the surfaces of the reduced diameter portion 108 and shoulder 110 to be laser welded to the end of the case 100 to achieve a hermetic seal.

Attention is now directed to Figures 21-24, which depict the tab 94 extending from the second open end 106 of the case tube 101. Note that the tab 94 extends longitudinally from the body close to the case tube adjacent to tube's inner wall surface. In accordance with a preferred embodiment of the invention, the tab 94 is welded at 110 to the inner face 112 of a circular second endcap 114. In accordance with a preferred embodiment, the tab 94 is sufficiently long to locate the weld 110 beyond the center point of the circular endcap 114. More particularly, note in Figures 21-24 that by locating the weld 110 displaced from the center of the cap 114, the tab 94 can conveniently support the endcap 114 in a vertical orientation as depicted in Figure 22 misaligned with respect to the open end 106. This end cap position approximately perpendicular to the end 122 of the case 100 is a first bias position wherein the end cap advantageously tends to remain in that orientation with the case end open prior to filling. To further describe the relationship between the weld location and the various components, Figure 23 shows a front view with various dimensions. L represents the length from the weld 110 to the top of the case 100 as measured parallel to the edge of the case. R is the radius of the end cap 114. For the preferred geometry, $L \leq 2R$. Weld 110 is preferably made above the center point 111 of the end cap 114. Preferably, the end cap 114 overlaps the case 100 by approximately $R/2$. By configuring the tab 94 and weld 110 as indicated, the endcap 114 can be supported so that it does not obstruct the open end 106, thereby facilitating electrolyte filling of the case interior cavity via open end 106. A filling needle or nozzle can be placed through open end 106 to fill the case. This obviates the need for a separate electrolyte fill port, thereby reducing the number of components and number of seals to be made, thus reducing cost and improving reliability. Furthermore, for small medical batteries, the end caps would be very small to have fill ports therein. In a preferred embodiment in which the case wall is very thin, for example, about 0.002 inches (about 50 μm), providing a fill port in the side wall of the case would be impractical. Even in the case of larger devices where space is less critical and the wall is more substantial, providing a fill port in the side of the case would mean the electrolyte would have a very long path length to wet the jellyroll. Note that while the case could be filled with electrolyte

prior to welding tab 94 to endcap 114, it would be difficult and messy to do so. Therefore, it is advantageous to configure the tab 94 and weld 110 as described to allow the weld to be made prior to filling.

5 Preferably before filling, a bottomside electrode insulator (not shown), which may comprise a thin disk of DuPont Kapton® polyimide film, is installed into the case between the rolled electrode assembly and the still open end of the battery case.

10 In a preferred filling method, there is a channel of air between the pin and the crimped or welded C-shaped mandrel, which is used as a conduit for quickly delivering the electrolyte to the far end of the battery and to the inside edges of the electrodes within the jellyroll. Filling from the far end of the battery prevents pockets of air from being trapped, which could form a barrier to further filling. This facilitates and speeds the filling process, ensuring that electrolyte wets the entire battery.

Thereafter, the flexible tab 94 can be bent to the configuration depicted in Figure 24. Note that the endcap 114 is configured similarly to header hollow member 22 and includes a
15 reduced diameter portion 118 and a shoulder 120. The reduced diameter portion snugly fits against the inner surface of the wall of tube 101 with the endcap shoulder 120 bearing against the end 122 of the cylindrical case 100. The relatively long length of the tab 94 extending beyond the center point of the endcap surface 112 minimizes any axial force which might be exerted by the tab portion 94 tending to longitudinally displace the endcap 114. The end cap position
20 covering the end 122 of the case 100 is a second bias position wherein the end cap advantageously tends to remain in that orientation prior to welding. With the endcap in place, it can then be readily welded to the case wall 101 to hermetically seal the battery. With tab 90 welded to negative substrate 72 and with the negative electrode strip 70 as the outermost layer of the jellyroll, the endcap 114 becomes negative. In turn, welding the endcap 114 to the case 100
25 renders the case negative.

The following examples describe electric storage batteries and methods for making them according to the present invention, and set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventors of carrying out the matter, but are not to be construed as limiting. For example, alternative methods for preparing the negative electrode could be used, such as that described in copending patent
30 application Serial Number 10/264,870, filed October 3, 2002, which is assigned to the assignee of the present invention and incorporated herein by reference in its entirety. Furthermore, although the example given is for lithium ion rechargeable and lithium primary batteries, the

present invention is not limited to lithium chemistries, and may be embodied in batteries using other chemistries.

EXAMPLE 1: Rechargeable Battery

The negative electrode was prepared by combining a mixed-shape graphite with poly(vinylidene) fluoride (PVdF) in a ratio of 85:15 in N-methyl-pyrrolidinone (NMP), then mixing to form a slurry. A 5- μ m titanium foil substrate was coated with the slurry, then dried by evaporating the NMP off using heat, then compressed to a thickness of about 79 μ m. Portions of negative active material were scraped off to leave certain portions of the negative substrate uncoated, as described above.

A positive active material slurry was prepared by mixing $\text{LiCo}_{0.15}\text{Ni}_{0.8}\text{Al}_{0.05}\text{O}_2$, poly(vinylidene) fluoride (PVDF) binder, graphite, acetylene black, and NMP. The slurry was coated onto both sides of a 20- μ m thick aluminum foil. The positive electrode was compressed to a final total thickness of about 87 μ m. Portions of positive active material were scraped off to leave certain portions of the positive substrate uncoated, as described above.

The 8.59 mm x 29.14 mm-negative electrode and 7.8 mm x 23.74 mm-positive electrode were then spirally wound with a layer of polyethylene separator between them, using the winding technique described above to form a jellyroll electrode assembly. Adhesive tape was applied to close the jellyroll in the manner described above. The jellyroll was inserted into a circular cylindrical Ti-6Al-4V 0.05-mm thick case having a diameter of about 2.9 and a height of about 11.8 mm, for a total external volume of about 0.08 cm^3 . An electrolyte comprising LiPF_6 in a mixture of ethylene carbonate (EC) and diethyl carbonate (DEC) was delivered to the electrode assembly using the C-shaped mandrel as a conduit, as described above. The end of the battery case was closed, using the technique described above, hermetically sealing the case.

The battery produced in this example was suitable for implanting in a human body, being hermetically sealed and very small. In fact, due to its small diameter and circular cylindrical shape, this rechargeable battery can be used in a device inserted into the body using a syringe-like device having a needle. Preferably, for this method of implantation, the diameter of the battery is less than 3 mm. The volume is preferably less than 1 cm^3 , more preferably less than 0.5 cm^3 , and most preferably less than 0.1 cm^3 . Using one or a combination of the various techniques described herein allows a spirally wound jellyroll-type electrode assembly to be fit into a very small battery case of a volume not seen in the prior art. The very small battery of this example is particularly suitable for applications requiring excellent cycleability, operating at low current, such as diagnostic or other low energy applications.

For a battery to be useful at a given rate, the capacity should be higher than 70% of its capacity at a very low rate, such as 0.2C. For the cell of this example, 3 mA = 1C. As shown in the table below, two batteries produced according to this example were tested for their rate capability at 37°C, charging to 4.0 V at 1.5 mA, using a 0.15 mA cutoff, and discharging at 0.6, 1.5, 3.0, 6, 9, 15, and 30 mA to 2.7 V. The batteries were found to meet the greater than 70% capacity criterion for all rates up to and including 5C. In fact, they were found to have greater than 80% capacity at rates up to 5C, greater than 90% for rates of up to 3C, and greater than 95% for rates up to 1C.

| Discharge rate (mA) | Discharge rate (C) | Cell 1 % Capacity | Cell 2 % Capacity | Average % Capacity |
|------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| 0.6 | 0.2 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| 1.5 | 0.5 | 98.1 | 97.8 | 97.9 |
| 3.0 | 1 | 95.9 | 95.5 | 95.7 |
| 6 | 2 | 93.2 | 92.6 | 92.9 |
| 9 | 3 | 90.3 | 89.6 | 90.0 |
| 15 | 5 | 80.8 | 80.7 | 80.8 |
| 30 | 10 | 45.1 | 47.9 | 46.5 |

Table Capacity at various rates expressed as % of capacity at a rate of 0.2C.

EXAMPLE 2: Primary Battery

The negative electrode was prepared by laminating 30 μ m lithium foil onto both sides of 5 μ m copper foil, for a total thickness of about 65 μ m, leaving certain portions of the negative substrate free of lithium to facilitate connections and allow room for adhesive tape, as described above.

A positive active material slurry was prepared by mixing CF_x , polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE), carbon black, and carboxy methylcellulose (CMC) in a ratio of 80:4:10:6. The slurry was coated onto both sides of a 20- μ m thick aluminum foil. The positive electrode was compressed to a final total thickness of about 108 μ m. Portions of positive active material were scraped off to leave certain portions of the positive substrate uncoated, as described above.

The 21 mm x 22 mm-negative electrode and 20 mm x 17 mm-positive electrode were then spirally wound with a layer of 25 μ m polypropylene separator between them, using the winding technique described above to form a jellyroll electrode assembly. Because lithium sticks to the case material during insertion, the outer layer of the electrode assembly was a layer

of the separator material to facilitate introduction of the jellyroll into the case. Adhesive tape was applied to close the jellyroll in the manner described above. The jellyroll was inserted into a circular cylindrical stainless steel 0.1-mm thick case having a diameter of about 2.9 and a height of about 26 mm, for a total external volume of about 0.17 cm³. An electrolyte comprising LiPF₆ in a mixture of ethylene carbonate (EC) and diethyl carbonate (DEC) was delivered to the electrode assembly, but without using the C-shaped mandrel as a conduit in the above-described manner. The end of the battery case was closed, using the technique described above, hermetically sealing the case.

The battery produced in this example was suitable for implanting in a human body, being hermetically sealed and very small. Although its volume and length were approximately double that of the rechargeable battery described in Example 1, due to its small diameter and circular cylindrical shape, this primary battery also can be used in a device inserted into the body using a syringe-like device having a needle. Using one or a combination of the various techniques described herein allows a spirally wound jellyroll-type electrode assembly to be fit into a very small battery case of a volume not seen in the prior art. The very small primary battery of this example is particularly suitable for applications for which it is important to have less of a voltage drop during pulsing, that do not require rechargeability.

From the foregoing, it should now be appreciated that an electric storage battery construction and method of manufacture have been described herein particularly suited for manufacturing very small, highly reliable batteries suitable for use in implantable medical devices. Although a particular preferred embodiment has been described herein and exemplary dimensions have been mentioned, it should be understood that many variations and modifications may occur to those skilled in the art falling within the spirit of the invention and the intended scope of the appended claims.

25

CLAIMS

We claim:

1. An electrode assembly for use in an electric storage battery, said electrode assembly
5 comprising:
 - a first polarity electrode strip comprising an elongate first substrate having first and second faces each carrying a coat of active material;
 - a second polarity electrode strip comprising an elongate second substrate having first and second faces each carrying a coat of active material;
 - 10 said first and second electrode strips being superposed and wound together around a common axis to form a spiral roll having successive alternating layers of said first and second electrode strips, said layers including an inner first polarity electrode layer of minimum radius proximate to an inner end of said first substrate and an outer second polarity electrode layer of maximum radius proximate to an outer end of second substrate;
 - 15 said spiral roll including layers of separator material interleaved between layers of said first and second electrode strips; and wherein
 - said second substrate outer end is devoid of active material on both faces thereof whereby the outer radius of said roll can be minimized by adhering said second substrate outer end to an adjacent roll layer.
 - 20
2. The assembly of claim 1 wherein the thickness of each coat of active material on said second substrate is greater than the thickness of said second substrate.
3. The assembly of claim 1 further including:
25 adhesive tape adhering said second substrate outer end to said adjacent roll layer.
4. The assembly of claim 1 wherein the combined thickness of the coats of active material on said second substrate is greater than the thickness of said adhesive tape.
- 30 5. The assembly of claim 1 wherein said second substrate outer end is devoid of active material on both faces thereof along a length less than a full turn of said spiral roll.
6. The assembly of claim 1 wherein said second substrate outer end is devoid of active material on both faces thereof along a length of between 1 and 8 mm.

7. The assembly of claim 1 wherein said second substrate outer end is devoid of active material on both faces thereof along a length of about 2 mm.
8. The assembly of claim 1 wherein said second polarity electrode strip is negative.
- 5 9. An electric storage battery comprising:
an electrically conductive case;
the electrode assembly of claim 1 housed in said case; wherein
said case is electrically coupled to said second polarity electrode strip.
- 10 10. The electric storage battery of claim 9 wherein said second polarity electrode strip is negative and wherein said case is negative.
11. An electrode assembly for use in an electric storage battery, said electrode assembly
15 made by the steps of:
providing a first polarity electrode strip comprising an elongate first substrate having first and second faces each carrying a coat of active material;
providing a second polarity electrode strip comprising an elongate second substrate having first and second faces each carrying a coat of active material, wherein an outer end is
20 devoid of active material on both faces thereof;
providing separator material;
interleaving said first and second electrode strips with said separator material;
winding said interleaved electrode strips and separator material together around a common axis to form a spiral roll having successive alternating layers of said first electrode strip,
25 said separator material, said second electrode strip, and said separator material, said layers including an inner first polarity electrode layer of minimum radius proximate to an inner end of said first substrate and an outer second polarity electrode layer of maximum radius proximate to the outer end of second substrate, whereby the outer end is devoid of active material.
- 30 12. The assembly of claim 11 wherein said step of providing a second polarity electrode strip comprises providing a second polarity electrode strip wherein the thickness of each coat of active material on the second substrate is greater than the thickness of the second substrate.

13. The assembly of claim 11 wherein said steps further comprise a step of:
adhering the second substrate outer end to the adjacent roll layer with adhesive tape.
14. The assembly of claim 13 wherein said step of providing a second polarity electrode strip
5 comprises providing a second polarity electrode strip wherein the combined thicknesses of the
coats of active material on the second substrate is greater than the thickness of the adhesive tape.
15. The assembly of claim 11 wherein said second substrate outer end is devoid of active
material on both faces thereof along a length less than a full turn of said spiral roll.
- 10 16. The assembly of claim 11 where said second substrate outer end is devoid of active
material on both faces thereof along a length of between 1 and 8 mm.
17. The assembly of claim 11 wherein said second substrate outer end is devoid of active
15 material on both faces thereof along a length of about 2 mm.
18. The assembly of claim 11 wherein said second polarity electrode strip is negative.
19. An method for making an electrode assembly for use in an electric storage battery,
20 comprising the steps of;
providing a first polarity electrode strip comprising an elongate first substrate having first
and second faces each carrying a coat of active material;
providing a second polarity electrode strip comprising an elongate second substrate
having first and second faces each carrying a coat of active material, wherein an outer end is
25 devoid of active material on both faces thereof;
providing separator material;
interleaving said first and second electrode strips with said separator material;
winding said interleaved electrode strips and separator material together around a
common axis to form a spiral roll having successive alternating layers of said first electrode strip,
30 said separator material, said second electrode strip, and said separator material, said layers
including an inner first polarity electrode layer of minimum radius proximate to an inner end of
said first substrate and an outer second polarity electrode layer of maximum radius proximate to
the outer end of second substrate, whereby the outer end is devoid of active material.

20. The method of claim 19 wherein said step of providing a second polarity electrode strip comprises providing a second polarity electrode strip wherein the thickness of each coat of active material on the second substrate is greater than the thickness of the second substrate.
- 5
21. The method of claim 19 wherein said steps further comprise a step of:
adhering the second substrate outer end to the adjacent roll layer with adhesive tape.
22. The method of claim 19 wherein said step of providing a second polarity electrode strip
- 10 comprises providing a second polarity electrode strip wherein the combined thicknesses of the coats of active material on the second substrate is greater than the thickness of the adhesive tape.

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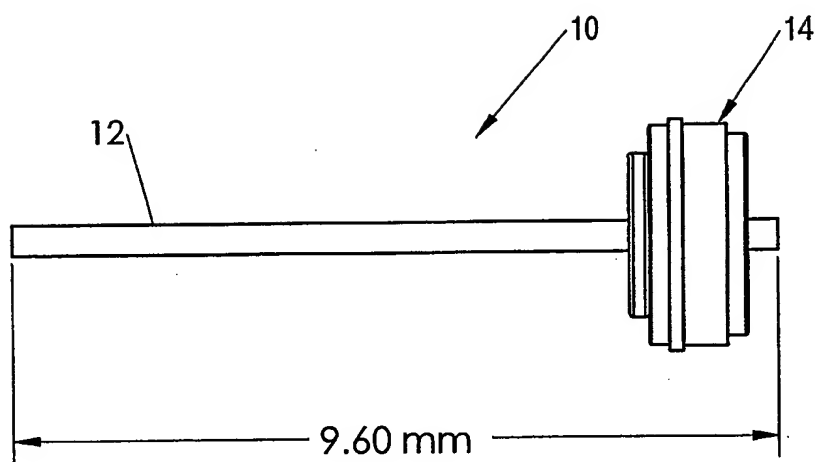


FIG. 1

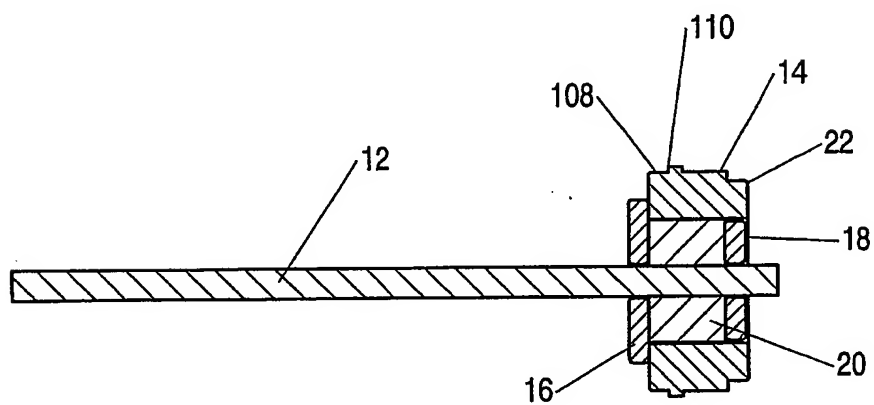


FIG. 2

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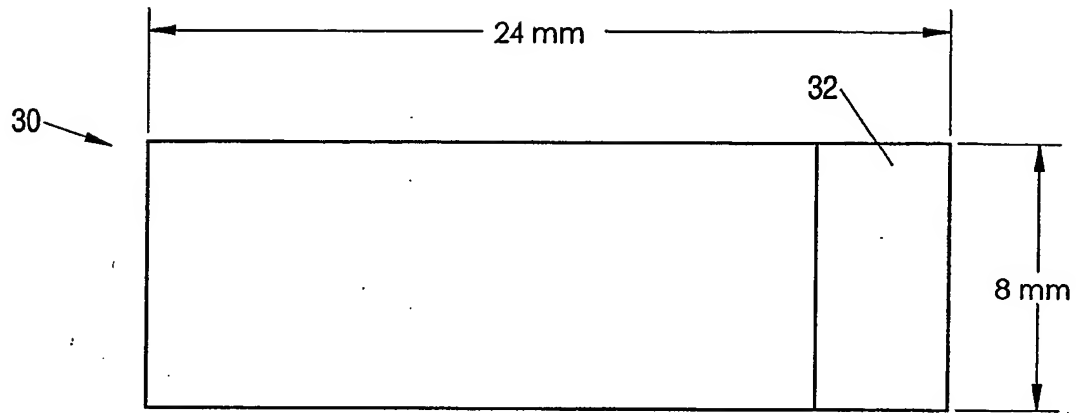


FIG. 3

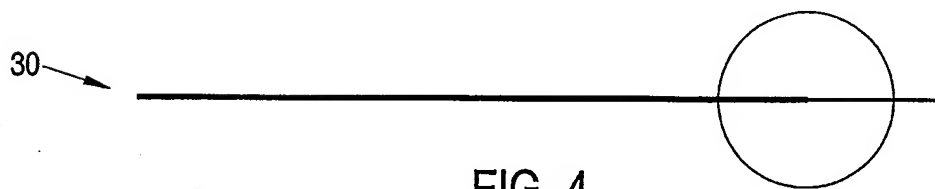


FIG. 4

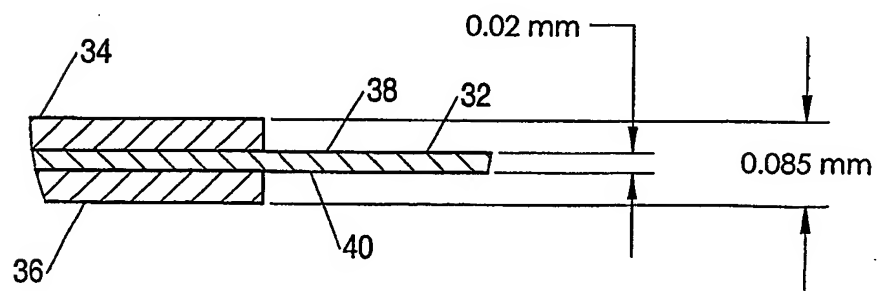
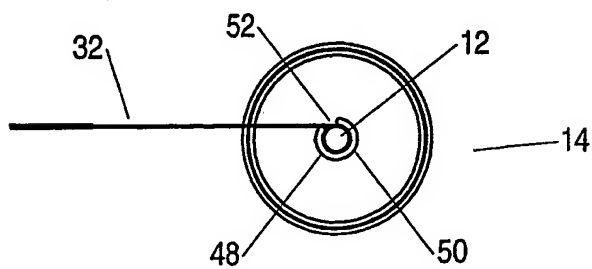
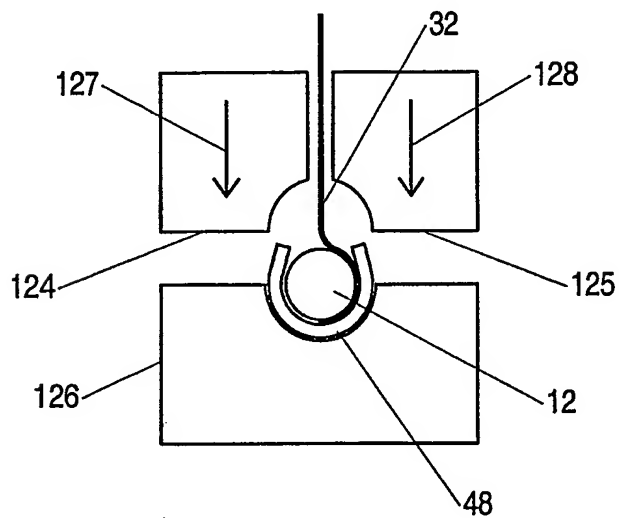
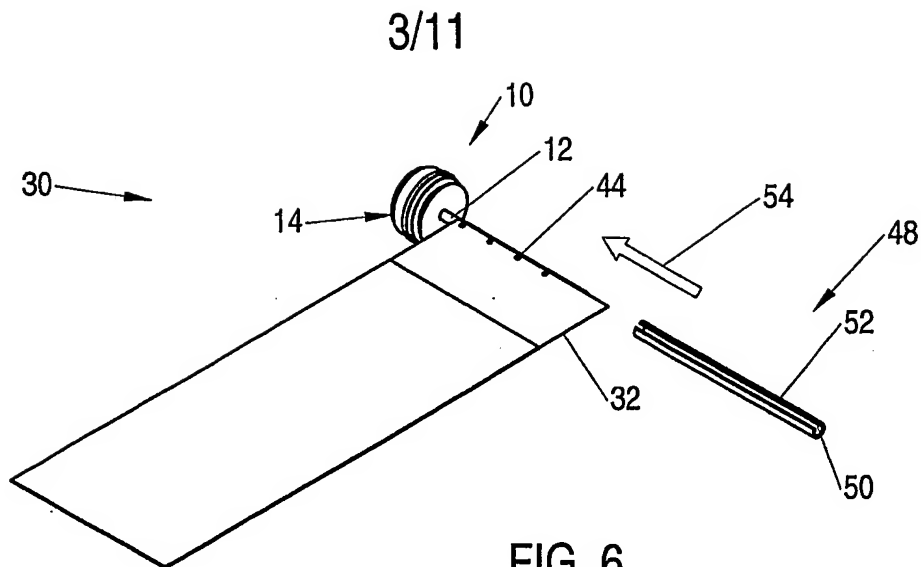
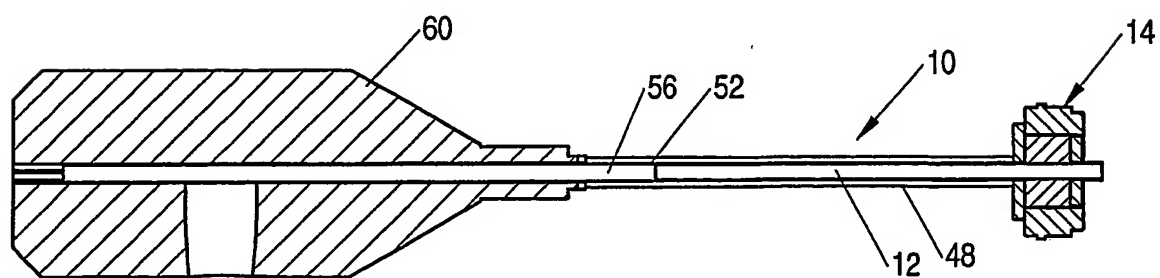
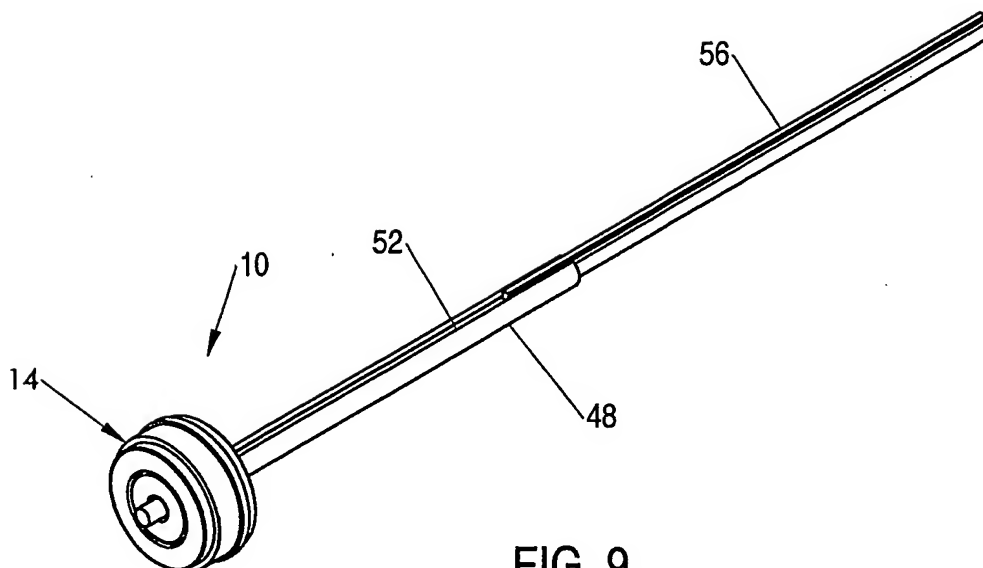


FIG. 5



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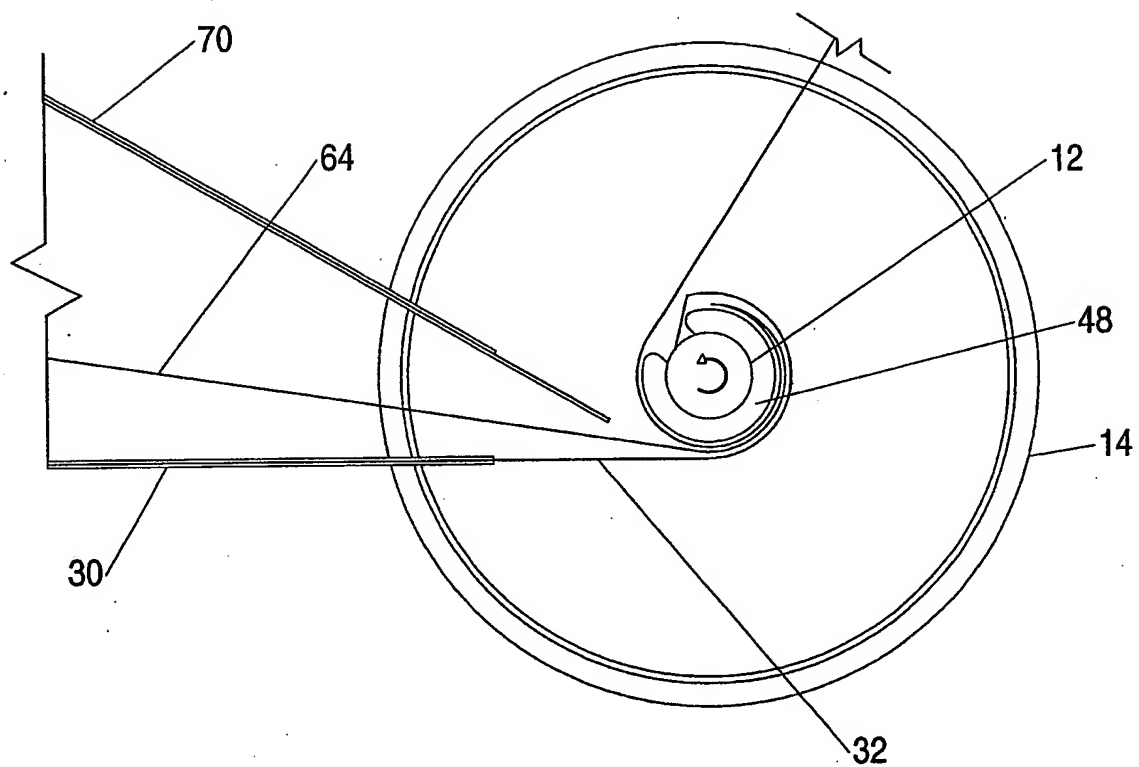


FIG. 11

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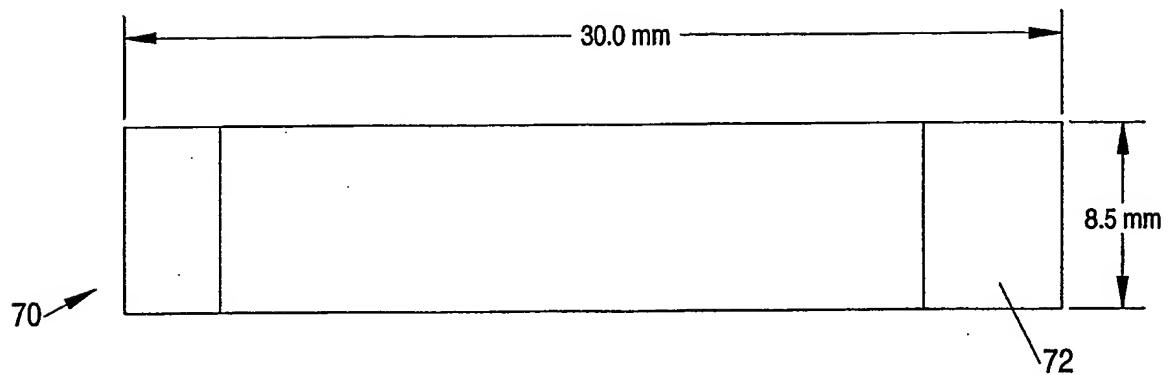


FIG. 12

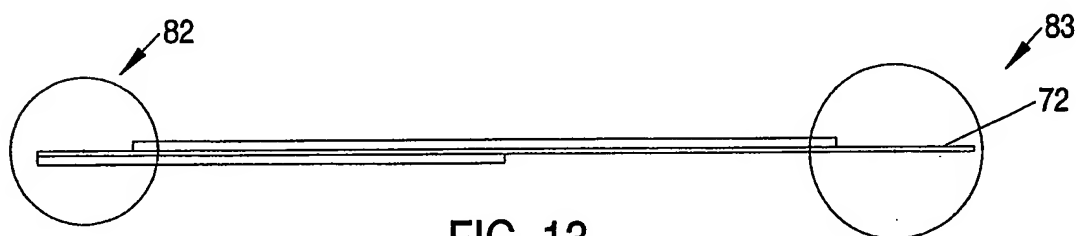


FIG. 13

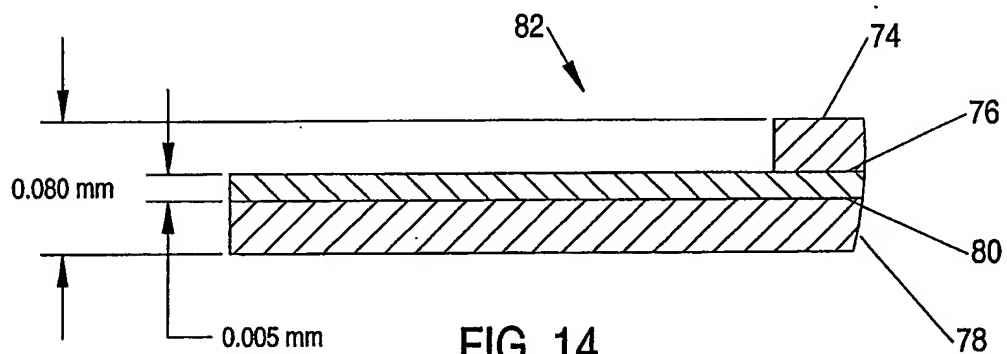


FIG. 14

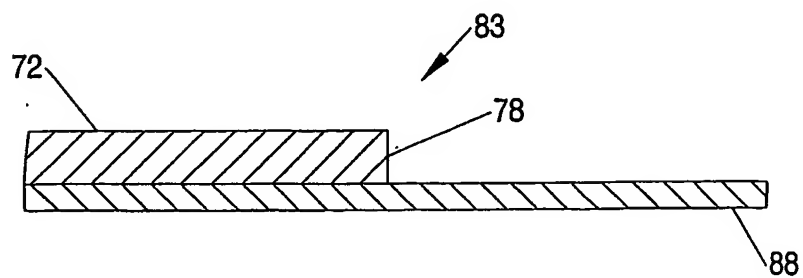


FIG. 15

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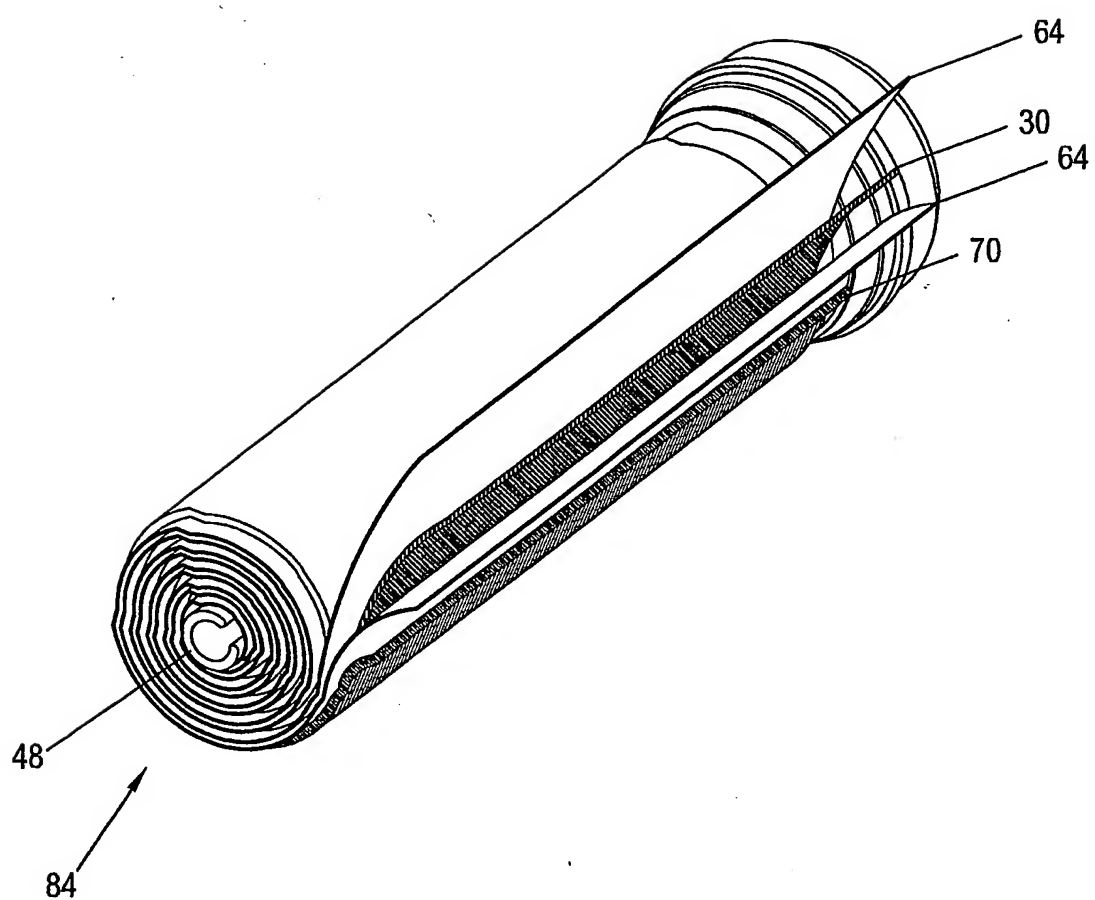
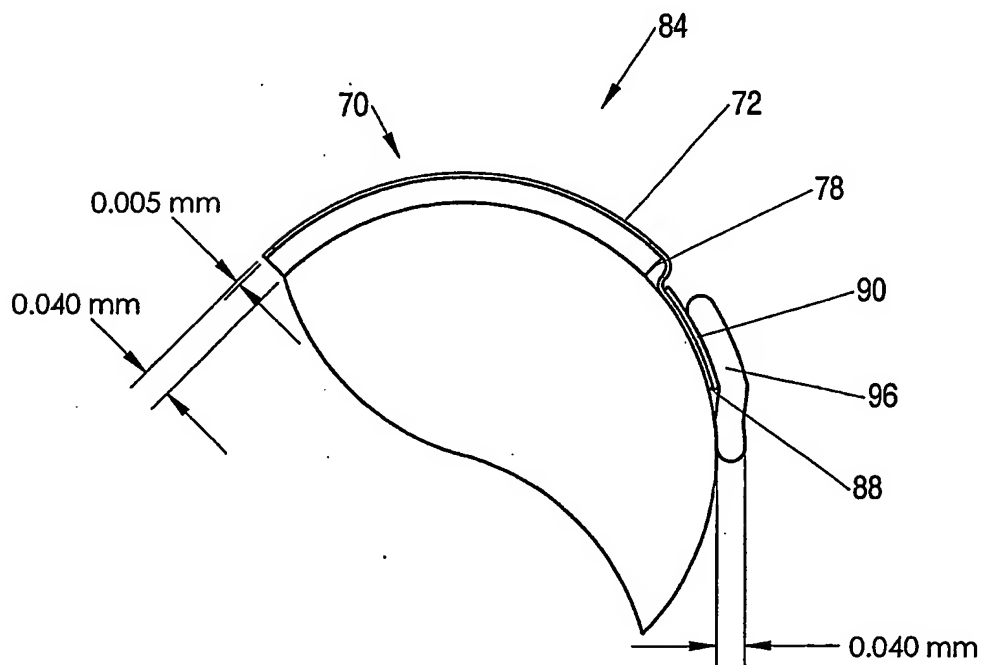
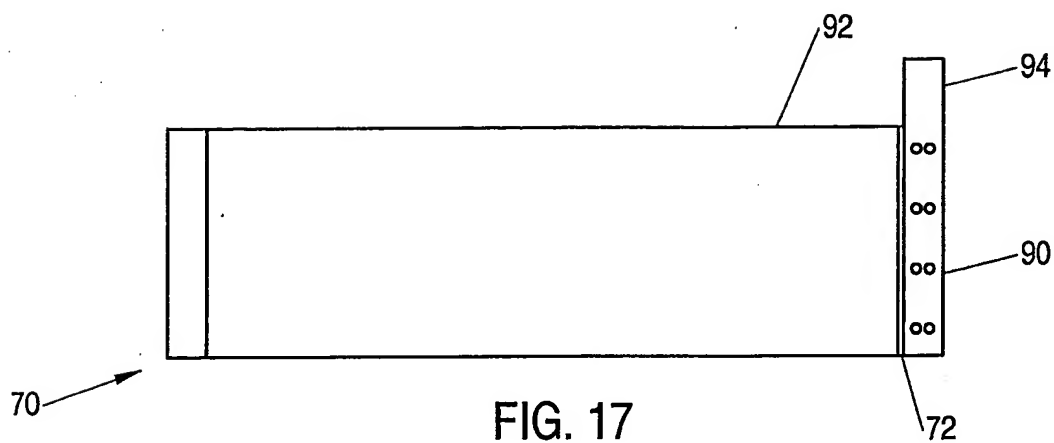
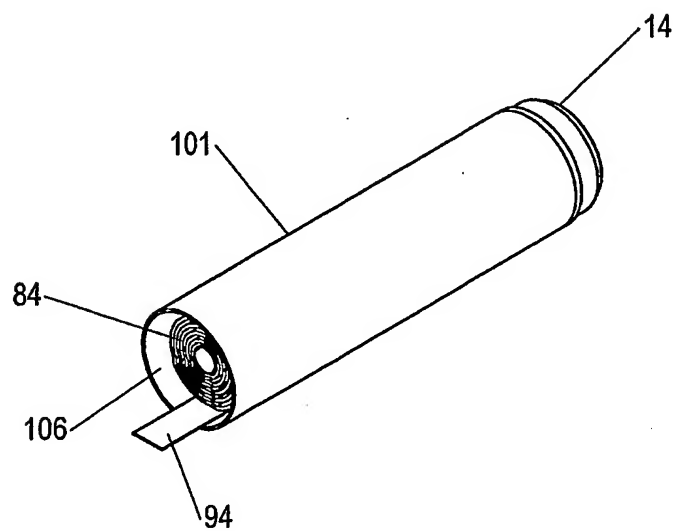
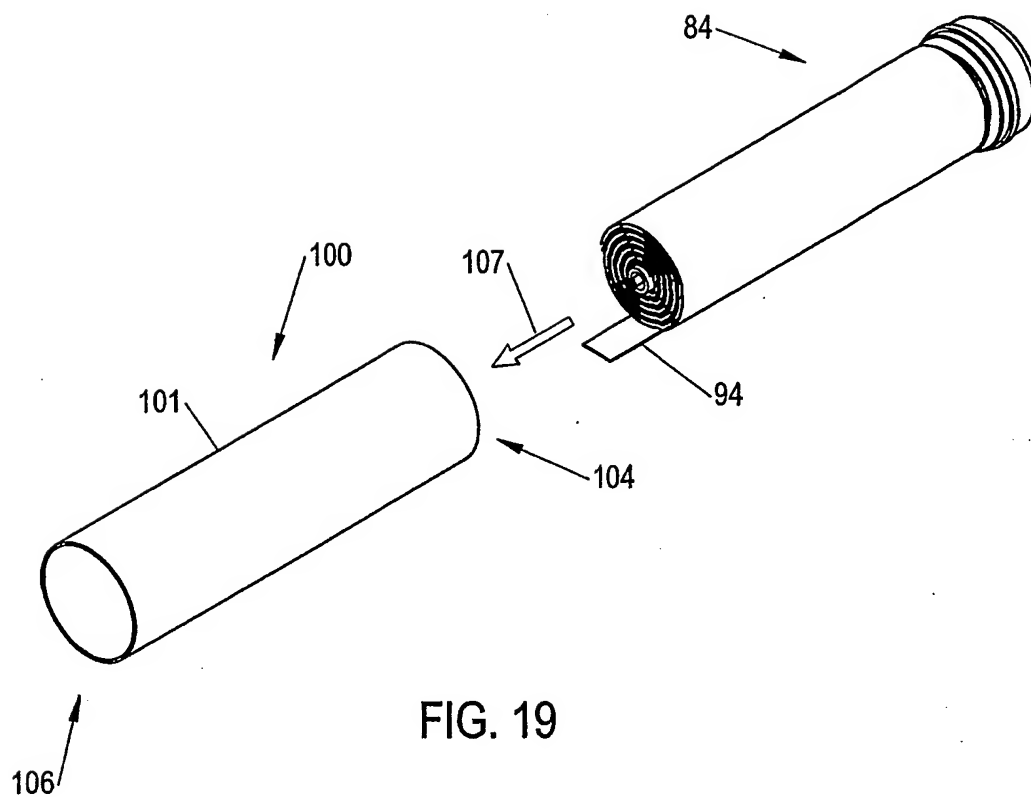


FIG. 16

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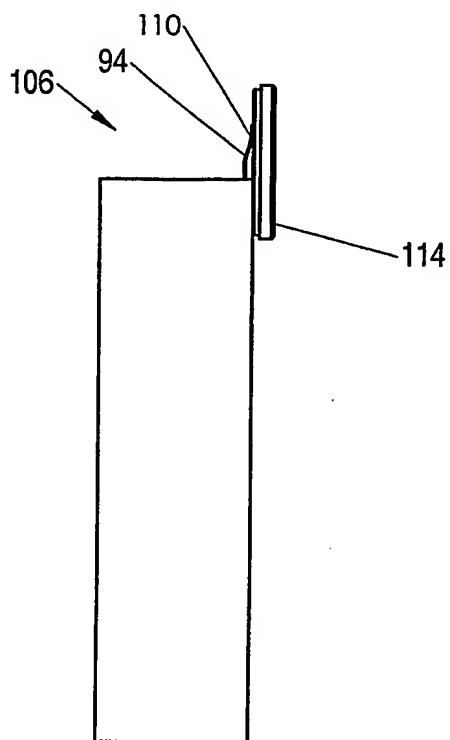
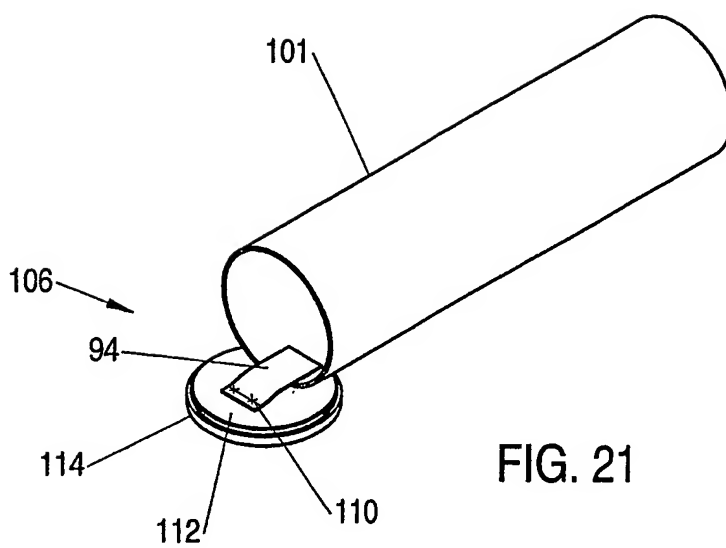


FIG. 22

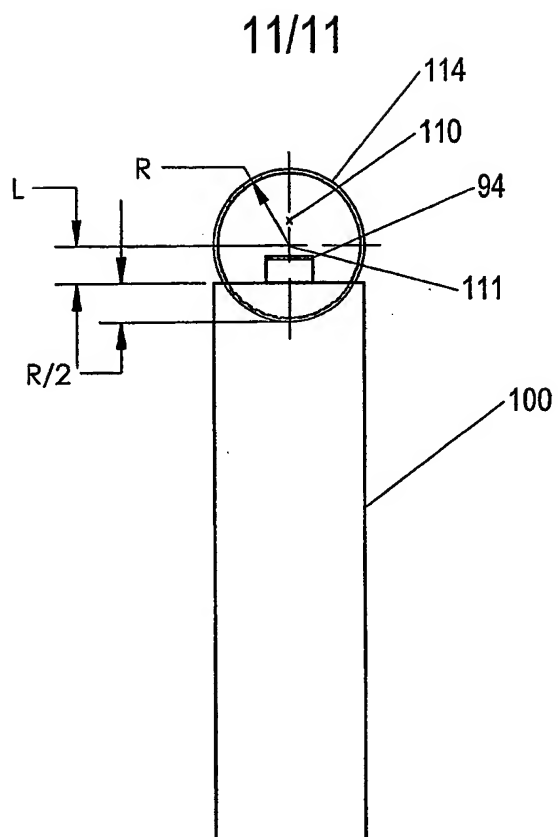


FIG. 23

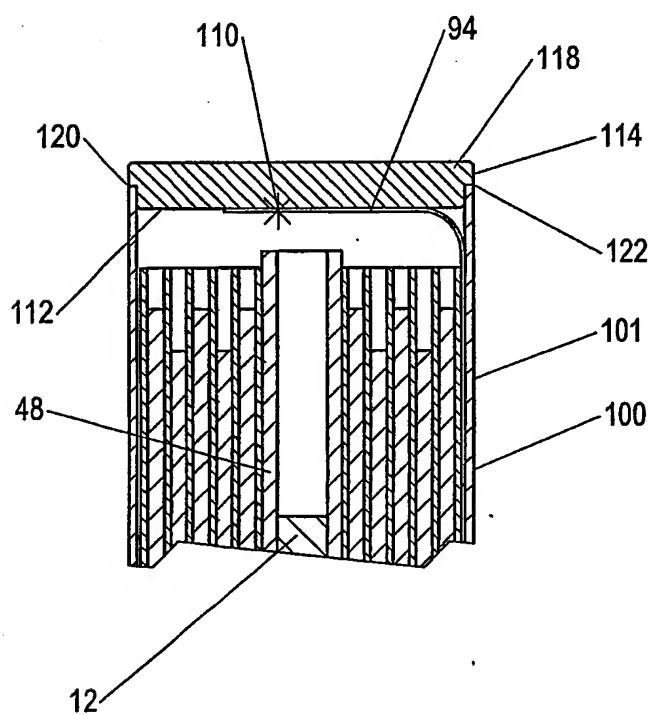


FIG. 24

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US03/01334

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(7) : H01M 10/40, 4/70, 4/58

US CL : 429/94, 164, 166, 169, 170, 178, 60

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

U.S. : 429/94, 164, 166, 169, 170, 178, 60

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

EAST

search terms: spiral or jelly-roll or cylindrical battery, radius, thickness

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

| Category* | Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages | Relevant to claim No. |
|-----------|---|-----------------------|
| Y | US 2002/0004161 A1 (YAMAGUCHI) 10 January 2002, sects. 0031-0043 | 1-22 |
| A,P | US 2002/0076605 A1 (AKASHI et al) 20 June 2002, sects. 0019-0047 | 1-22 |
| A,P | US 6,348,282 B1 (OKOCHI et al) 19 February 2002, col. 3, lines 50-67 and col. 4, lines 1-20 | 1-22 |
| A | US 6,180,285 B1 (YOSHIDA et al) 30 January 2001, col. 3, lines 15-67 | 1-22 |

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. ☐ See patent family annex.

| | |
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| * Special categories of cited documents: | "I" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention |
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| "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed | |

Date of the actual completion of the international search

04 APRIL 2003

Date of mailing of the international search report

24 APR 2003

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